

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/075,926

Examiner

Longbit Chai

Applicant(s)

WILLMING ET AL.

Art Unit

2131

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to interview on 5/10/2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-25.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 4/26/2006
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date 5/10/2006
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.



AYAZ SHEIKH

SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jori R. Schiffman (Reg. No. 57,628) on 5/10/2006.

This application has been amended as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Replace claims 1, 14 and 21 as follows.

Claim 1: A method for automatic installation of a digital certificate on a cable modem in a data-over-cable system, the method comprising:

performing a digital certificate installation process on the cable modem during initialization to determine whether a digital certificate is installed on the cable modem, the determination being made by the cable modem; if not, generating a digital certificate filename on the cable modem;

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generating a digital certificate request including the digital certificate filename on the cable modem, the digital certificate request being initiated by the cable modem; and

sending the digital certificate request including the digital certificate filename from the cable modem to a predetermined network server;

receiving a digital certificate file on the cable modem including at least one digital certificate, the digital certificate file having been sent from the network server; and

storing the at least one digital certificate received from the network server on the cable modem;

wherein the digital certificate is required to authenticate the cable modem on a Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS) to prevent unauthorized cable modems from accessing services of the CMTS.

Claim 14: A method for providing digital certificates to at least one cable modem in a data-over-cable system, the method comprising:

performing a digital certificate installation process on the cable modem during initialization to determine whether a digital certificate is installed on the cable modem, the determination being made by the cable modem; if not,

generating a digital certificate request on the cable modem, the digital certificate request being initiated by the cable modem;

receiving the digital certificate request including a digital certificate filename on a network server from the cable modem;

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authenticating the request on the network server using at least one parameter specified in the digital certificate filename;

generating at least one digital certificate for the cable modem; and

providing the at least one digital certificate from the network server to the cable modem;

wherein the digital certificate is required to authenticate the cable modem on a Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS) to prevent unauthorized cable modems from accessing services of the CMTS.

Claim 21: A system for dynamic digital certificate installation in a data-over-cable network, the system comprises, in combination:

a cable modem configured to determine whether a digital certificate is installed on the cable modem during initialization, and if not, request a digital certificate from a predetermined network server; and

the network server configured to dynamically generate a digital certificate upon receiving a digital certificate request including a digital certificate filename from the cable modem, the digital certificate request including the digital certificate filename having been initiated by the cable modem, and further configured to provide the digital certificate to the cable modem;

wherein the digital certificate is required to authenticate the cable modem on a Cable Modem Termination System (CMTS) to prevent unauthorized cable modems from accessing services of the CMTS.

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1 – 25 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The above mentioned claims are allowable over prior arts because the CPA (Cited Prior Art) of record fails to teach or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations, as recited in independent claims 1, 14 and 21.

The prior arts Hind in combination with Rowney, fail to teach or suggest a system for dynamic digital certificate installation in a data-over-cable network, the system comprises a cable modem configured to determine whether a digital certificate is installed on the cable modem during initialization, and if not, request a digital certificate from a predetermined network server; and the network server configured to dynamically generate a digital certificate upon receiving a digital certificate request including a digital certificate filename from the cable modem, the digital certificate request including the digital certificate filename having been initiated by the cable modem, and further configured to provide the digital certificate to the cable modem.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Longbit Chai whose telephone number is 571-272-3788. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


LBC

Longbit Chai
Examiner
Art Unit 2131


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100